

RTTUZYUW RUTLAAA1057 0601819-UUUU--RUDOMKA RUDOMLB RUQMIF RUQMFV  
RUQMCF.

ZNR UUUUU ZYN

R 291817Z FEB 80

FM FBIS WASH DC

TO RUDOMKA/FBIS LONDON UK

RUDOMLB/FBIS CAVERSHAM UK

RUQMIF/FBIS AMMAN JO

RUQMFV/FBIS TEL AVIV IS

RUQMCF/FBIS NICOSIA CY

FBWA

BT

UNCLAS LD

OPS 7-0  
+  
TRANS  
SAUDI PRESS AGENCY

STAT

REF WA194, LD055 ON SAUDI PRESS AGENCY:

NOTHING IS EVER EASY. SPA REPRESENTATIVE IS OUT OF TOWN AND WILL  
BE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO. I THINK WHAT WE MAY HAVE HERE, INSTEAD  
OF TWO DIFFERENT PRESS AGENCIES, IS ONE AGENCY THAT RENDERS ITS NAME  
AND ACRONYM ONE WAY IN THE VERNACULAR AND A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY  
IN ENGLISH. I RECALL THAT WHEN I SPOKE TO THE SPA REPRESENTATIVE  
EARLIER, SHE APPEARED TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANOTHER SAUDI PRESS  
AGENCY THAT MIGHT BE CALLED SNA. SHE WAS, HOWEVER, QUITE ADAMANT  
THAT THE CORRECT (OR MAYBE, PREFERRED) RENDERING OF THE TITLE IN  
ENGLISH WAS "SAUDI PRESS AGENCY (SPA)". AT ANY RATE, I SHALL  
RECHECK. 29/1823Z FEB

BT

1057

RTTUZYUW RUDDOMKA1843 8891412-00000000RUTLAAB;

ZNR 00000 ZYN

R 281410Z FEB 80

FM FBIS LONDON UK

TO RUTLAAB/FBIS WASH DC

RUGMIF/FBIS AMMAN JO

RUGMQF/FBIS NICOSIA CY

RUGMFV/FBIS TEL AVIV IS

RUGMOT/FBIS GULF

FBLD

BT

UNCLAS RUDD

OPS 9-0  
+  
TRANS-3  
SAUDI ARABIA

FEB 2 6 3 41 PM '80

STAT

LD855

REF WA194 ON SAUDI PRESS AGENCYT

1; WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK ANYTHING IS SIMPLE WHERE SOURCE LINES ARE CONCERNED; BBC HAS DOUBTS ABOUT SWITCH FROM SNA TO SPA; THEIR OPINION IS THAT TWO SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS OR BRANCHES OF THE SAME ORGANIZATION ARE INVOLVED; THEY HAVE CONTACTS WITH SAUDI PRESS AGENCY OFFICE LONDON; AND TODAY SPOKE WITH OFFICE DIRECTOR; HE APPARENTLY SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH; BUT EMPHASIZED MORE THAN ONCE THAT SPA AND SNA ARE "COMPLETELY DIFFERENT;" HE DECLINED TO EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE (OR MAY HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO IN ENGLISH);

2; WHATEVER THE DIFFERENCE, IT DOESN'T SEEM CLEARCUT; BBC PROVIDED ME WITH A LETTERHEAD FROM THE SPA OFFICE; ON WHICH

ENGLISH IS "SAUDI PRESS AGENCY" AND THE ARABIC IS "WAKALAT AL-ANBA' AS-SUDIYYAH," WHICH BBC MONITORS SAY CAN ONLY BE TRANSLATED AS "SAUDI NEWS AGENCY."

3; THE OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE BROADCAST SNA AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH TRANSMISSION DAY IS "THE SAUDI NEWS AGENCY (WAKALAT AL-ANBA' AS-SUDIYYAH) GREET'S YOU FROM RIYADH." IN ADDITION, MOST ITEMS TRANSMITTED ARE PRECEDED BY THE ARABIC ACRONYM "HAW ALIF SIN," WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO "SNA" IN THE LATIN ALPHABET. THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE AGENCY EXPECTS CONSUMERS TO IDENTIFY IT AS SNA RATHER THAN SPA.

4; HAVING MADE THE SWITCH, BUREAU WILL CONTINUE TO USE SOURCELINE "RIYADH SPA IN ARABIC" FOR NOW. HOWEVER, BBC IS NOT AT ALL CONVINCED THAT THE SAUDIS INTEND FOR BOTH SNA AND SPA TO BE CONSIDERED SINGLE ENTITY IDENTIFIED AS SAUDI PRESS AGENCY. CAN YOU RECHECK WITH REPRESENTATIVE YOU TALKED WITH, AND DETERMINE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SNA AND SPA, IF ANY?

28/1423Z FEB

BT

#1843

NNNN

BT

0734

NNNNBTUZYUW RUTLAAA0734 0521901-UUUU--RUDOMKA RUQMIF RUQMFV RUQMGF  
RUCMOT RUDOMLB.

ZNR UUUUU ZYN

R 211900Z FEB 80

FM FBIS WASH DC

TO RUDOMKA/FBIS LONDON UK.

RUDOMLB/FBIS CAVERSHAM UK

RUQMIF/FBIS AMMAN JO

RUQMFV/FBIS TEL AVIV IS

RUQMGF/FBIS NICOSIA CY

RUCMOT/FBIS GULF

FMMA

BT

UNCLAS LD

*Cov 1 - Saudi Arabia  
9-9-0.*

STAT

THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN NEWS  
AGENCY HAS REQUESTED THAT WE REFER TO IT AS THE "SAUDI PRESS AGENCY"  
WITH THE ACRONYM "SPA". WE PLAN TO COMPLY.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, PLEASE USE SOURCELINE "RIYADH SAUDI PRESS  
AGENCY (SPA) IN ARABIC", DROPPING THE "SAUDI PRESS AGENCY" PORTION  
AND USING ONLY THE ACRONYM AFTER A FEW DAYS. SUGGEST YOU INCLUDE  
SUBPLUG ON FIRST FEW ITEMS FILED WITH THIS NEW SOURCELINE  
INDICATING SOURCE WAS FORMERLY IDENTIFIED AS "SNA". UNLESS AN  
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE SOURCE DOES OTHERWISE, PLEASE ALSO USE NEW STYLE  
IN EDITORIAL COPY. THIS COORDINATED WITH DRD, WSS. 21/19037 FEB

0734

LOGNOTE -- Chief, Field Coverage Staff, 21 February 1980

SAUDI PRESS AGENCY REQUEST

STAT

1. At the request of LRB, I contacted Ms. Naila al-Sowayel, Washington representative and correspondent of the Saudi Press Agency (861-0324). Ms. Al-Sowayel had contacted LRB to note that we were referring to her agency as the Saudi Arabian News Agency, (SNA) in our Daily Reports when the correct name was the Saudi Press Agency, or SPA. From my brief discussion with Ms. Al-Sowayel and a check with NEAAD, it appears that our rendering of SNA was based on our translation of the Arabic name of the agency--Wakalat al-Anba' as Sa'udiyah -- which although technically correct, is not the rendering preferred by the agency itself.
2. I thanked Ms. Al-Sowayel for the information and said we would correct our rendering of the agency's name and acronym. A message, coordinated with DRD and the Wire, has been sent to the field requesting the change. Ms. Al-Sowayel appeared to have no problems with FBIS using SPA material and in fact indicated her office was ready to provide any assistance we might need.

cc: AC/OPS, C/NEAAD, C/LRB, C/DRD, FCS Files (Cov 1-Saudia Arabia, OPS 9-0) ✓